



**CITY of NORTHAMPTON  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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## **Northampton Health Department Schedules COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Second Booster**

NORTHAMPTON - Starting Monday, April 11, 2022, the Northampton Health Department will offer the newly recommended second booster dose of COVID vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, at local clinics. Appointments are now available on the City of Northampton website at

<https://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics>

On March 30, 2022, the CDC recommended the second booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, the mRNA vaccines, for people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least four months ago. Additionally, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago may now receive a second booster dose specifically of Pfizer or Moderna.

"Unfortunately, COVID is not over.," stated Public Health Director Merridith O'Leary, "While many people who already had boosters or who were younger than 50 years old stayed COVID-free or only had mild illness during the Omicron surge, some of our most vulnerable neighbors still became severely ill or died. First and second boosters are a good idea. These vaccines are now very well-known and studied."

The vaccine clinic schedule for April will be as follows:

- Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 17 Spring St., Florence
- Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Thornes Marketplace, second-floor kiosk (between Booklink and the BackStop)
- Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 17 Spring St., Florence
- Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Thornes Marketplace, second-floor kiosk (between Booklink and the BackStop)

Appointments are strongly encouraged; individuals with appointments will be taken ahead of walk-ins. Individuals seeking the vaccine at Thornes Marketplace are encouraged to park in the E.J. Gare Parking Garage as the first hour of parking is free. Both clinics are accessible by nearby PVTA bus routes. On Tuesdays in April COVID vaccines are available at various Northampton Housing Authority (NHA) locations and residents of NHA properties should check their community room schedule.

"We strongly encourage all community members to keep their guard up," said Public Health Nurse Kate Kelly, "booster doses rally the immune system to keep protecting against COVID. Boosters were very effective in preventing severe illness and hospitalization in the recent wave of Omicron cases. Individuals who are over 50 and anyone with certain medical conditions that put them at high risk for severe disease,

should get their first or second booster dose. We are seeing more cases as masks have come off and we need to protect ourselves and each other in order to ensure we enjoy a more normal summer.”

These clinics will focus on boosters and second boosters. However, the Health Department offers any CDC approved dose of any COVID vaccine including Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. Everyone aged five and up is welcome. Please note that the CDC, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Northampton Health Department all recommend the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over the Johnson and Johnson Vaccine.

COVID vaccination is always free, and while an ID or insurance is not required, we request that if a person has an ID or a vaccine card that they bring these. For more COVID-19 vaccine information or to register for an appointment, visit <https://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics>, email [kkelly@northamptonma.gov](mailto:kkelly@northamptonma.gov) or call 413-587-1215.